

Adjudicatory and Disposition Report to Court
September 14, 2015

Case Summary

Janet Morgan is a single, 30-year-old, Caucasian female. She has three biological children: Kerry Morgan, age 10; Layla Morgan, age 8; and Jessica Morgan, age 6. Kerry and Layla's father is Raymond Capa. Ms. Morgan and Mr. Capa were never married. It has been reported that Mr. Capa suffers from a mental illness and abuses alcohol and drugs. It has further been reported that he has been incarcerated numerous times and has also been in treatment for his substance abuse. According to Ms. Morgan, Mr. Capa has not been involved in his daughters' lives since 2008. Jessica's father is Justin Rogers, age 34. In 2013, Mr. Rogers was sentenced to prison for dealing drugs. He is scheduled for release in 4 years. Ms. Morgan and Mr. Rogers were never married. Mr. Rogers has not been involved in his daughter's life since his incarceration.

Ms. Morgan is estranged from her older sister and mother. Ms. Morgan denies a history of child abuse or domestic violence. She denies the use of drugs prior to a work accident that resulted in a back injury. Ms. Morgan receives disability and SNAP. She and the children are enrolled for Medicaid services. She also receives child support from Mr. Capa on occasion.

The Morgan family first came to the attention of the Department on April 2, 2015, for a report of child neglect. It was reported that Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan attended school unkempt and hungry. The school recommended a developmental assessment for Layla 4 months prior to the date of the report, and Ms. Morgan had not followed through. Additionally, Layla suffers from a seizure disorder and was not taking her medication reliably. Ms. Morgan said she was using prescription medication to manage her back pain. The physical home environment was unsanitary and presented some environmental hazards, including exposed wiring. This report was substantiated for neglect, and Ms. Morgan agreed to voluntary in-home services. This intervention was largely successful, and the case was proceeding to closure at the time of a second report.

A second report was received in the evening of July 14, 2015. Law enforcement called the Department to request emergency response to the Morgan home. Two men were fighting in front of the home wielding knives and yelling. Kerry and Layla were in the front yard witnessing the altercation. Ms. Morgan was incoherent inside the home. Police found several bottles of oxycodone with prescription labels belonging to others and a small amount of a substance believed to be heroin. Ms. Morgan was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and child endangerment.

The Department substantiated physical neglect and took emergency custody of the three girls. Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan were placed in foster care after determining the family friend specified in a previous safety plan was unable to provide care for the girls. On July 15, 2015, the Department contacted the only two treatment facilities in Clarksburg as Ms. Morgan reported that it was her understanding that Mr. Capa was in treatment in that town. Mr. Capa was not at either facility.

On July 15, 2015, the Court signed an ex parte order and granted emergency custody of the Morgan girls to the Department. On July 16, 2015, the Department met with Ms. Morgan following her arraignment and release from jail. The Department met with Ms. Morgan on July 17, 2015, to develop an assessment plan. A permanency plan of reunification was established for all three children on July 17, 2015. The Department made contact with Mr. Rogers on July 17, 2015, in the Mock State Correctional Facility and informed him that his daughter, Jessica, was in the legal and physical custody of the Department. On August 3, 2015, the Department asked Mr. Rogers to arrange for the Department to obtain copies of reports for any treatment or other services he has received or is receiving while incarcerated.

The Department continued to make efforts to locate Mr. Capa by contacting the Child Support Enforcement Division. Although the Division did have an open account on Mr. Capa, they reported that the account was delinquent, and they did not have current contact information.

Ms. Morgan participated in a limited number of supervised visitation with her three children at the Department offices. Generally, the visits went well, Ms. Morgan was appropriate with the children, and the children looked forward to visits with their mother. The Department arranged for a substance abuse assessment for Ms. Morgan for August 1, 2015. The Department, however, was not able to inform Ms. Morgan of the appointment. After Ms. Morgan failed to attend a scheduled supervised visit, the Department learned that Ms. Morgan absconded from the area. Jacksonville Police Department confirmed that Ms. Morgan had failed to attend her criminal hearing. The Department contacted Ms. Morgan's landlord and learned that she ended her lease and had left no forwarding address or other contact information. Her current location is unknown.

On July 29, 2015, the Department received a call from Keith and Paula Jackson (foster parents) requesting immediate removal of all three girls. Upon a no-show visit from Ms. Morgan, Layla demonstrated behaviors not easily controlled by the foster parents. The Jacksons declined services to quell the behavior and prevent placement disruption.

Supporting Healthy Families identified Lupe and Josh Shanihan, a therapeutic placement, for Layla Morgan. Helen and Mary Valencia were identified as foster parents for Kerry and Jessica. The Department also arranged for Supporting Healthy Families to conduct a psychological assessment for Layla Morgan. Sibling visitation would occur both through Skype and in-person visits.

Reason(s) for Continued Removal From Home:

The children were removed on an emergency basis because Ms. Morgan was incoherent and observed to be on an unknown substance. Mr. Capa's location is still unknown. Ms. Morgan's location is currently unknown as well. Mr. Rogers continues to be incarcerated.

Children's Perception of Situation:

Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan are concerned for their mother, especially given that they do not know where she is. The children were sad to have been separated due to placement disruption.

Child(ren) Information

Physical Health

Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan are all in good general health. The children are up to date on their immunizations. The children have no unmet physical health, including vision and dental, needs at this time. Layla Morgan is consistently taking her seizure medication. Administration is being monitored by the Department through the foster parents.

Mental/Behavioral Health

All children have expressed sadness about the sibling separation. Dr. Carol Peilter at Supporting Healthy Families completed a psychological assessment on Layla Morgan. A copy of the report is attached to this court report.

Education

The placement change required Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan to change schools. The Department worked to ensure that records were transferred to Franklin Elementary and facilitated an opportunity for the children to visit their new school before classes began this fall. Layla Morgan has identified developmental delays in speech and communication and gross motor skills. Services through the school are currently in place and will be reviewed at her upcoming IEP, which is scheduled for October of this year. By all reports, the children are each doing well and have successfully transitioned into their new school.

Social/Emotional Development

Kerry and Jessica Morgan appear to be developmentally on target. The children have been described as outgoing, and each has made new friends at their new school. Layla Morgan was assessed to be delayed in her social development. Supporting Healthy Families' behavior management specialist has been working with Layla Morgan to improve her skills. She has made a few new friends at her new school.

Placement

Relative as Placement Resource

Kerry Morgan was able to provide the names of her maternal grandmother and aunt, and the Department will be contacting them to explore for possible placement. Both live in a neighboring state. Justin Rogers recently provided the names of his brother and mother but stated that he did not believe they would be interested in providing placement for the children.

Description of Current Placement

Placement Type and Description:

Kerry and Jessica Morgan are placed in the licensed family foster home of Helen and Mary Valencia. The placement provides the least restrictive placement option. The foster care placement is considered stable. Layla Morgan is placed with Lupe and Josh Shanihan. The placement is a therapeutic foster care placement to address Layla's behavioral challenges.

Needs of Foster Parents:

The foster parents have been provided with known background information on Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan. They have also been provided with Medicaid cards to secure health care services for the girls and with the name of their primary care provider. Foster parents will receive monthly foster care maintenance. Layla Morgan's foster parents also receive support services through Supporting Healthy Families, which includes an in-home, behavior management specialist.

Visitation

Ms. Morgan visited with Kerry, Layla, and Jessica Morgan the day following her release from jail. The Department met with Ms. Morgan to establish a supervised visitation plan, which includes visits twice weekly for 2 hours at the Department office. Ms. Morgan failed to show for her visit scheduled for July 29, 2015, and there has been no visitation since that time. As Mr. Rogers is incarcerated, there is no face-to-face visitation between him and his daughter. Mr. Rogers has been writing to Jessica. Correspondences are reviewed prior to sharing with Jessica. Jessica appears to enjoy the letters and drew and sent Mr. Rogers a card. Whereabouts are unknown for Mr. Capa.

Safety and Risk Assessment

Safety threats include:

- No adult in the home is performing basic parenting duties and responsibilities that assure child safety.
- One or both parents/caregivers will not/cannot control their behavior.
- One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, or motivation necessary to assure a child's safety.
- The family does not have or use resources necessary to assure child's safety.
- A child has exceptional needs that affect his/her safety, which parents/caregivers are not meeting, cannot meet, or will not meet the child's needs.
- Living arrangements seriously endanger a child's physical health.

Risk level: Very High

Permanency Plan

Reunification

Signatures		
Foster Care Worker: Brook Tillman	<i>Brooke Tillman</i>	Date: 9/10/2015
Foster Care Supervisor: Robin White	<i>Robin White</i>	Date: 9/10/2015

